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JOURNEY TO THE EAST
PART 3 OF 4
#15
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SONIC UNIVERSE™
Tracy Yardley
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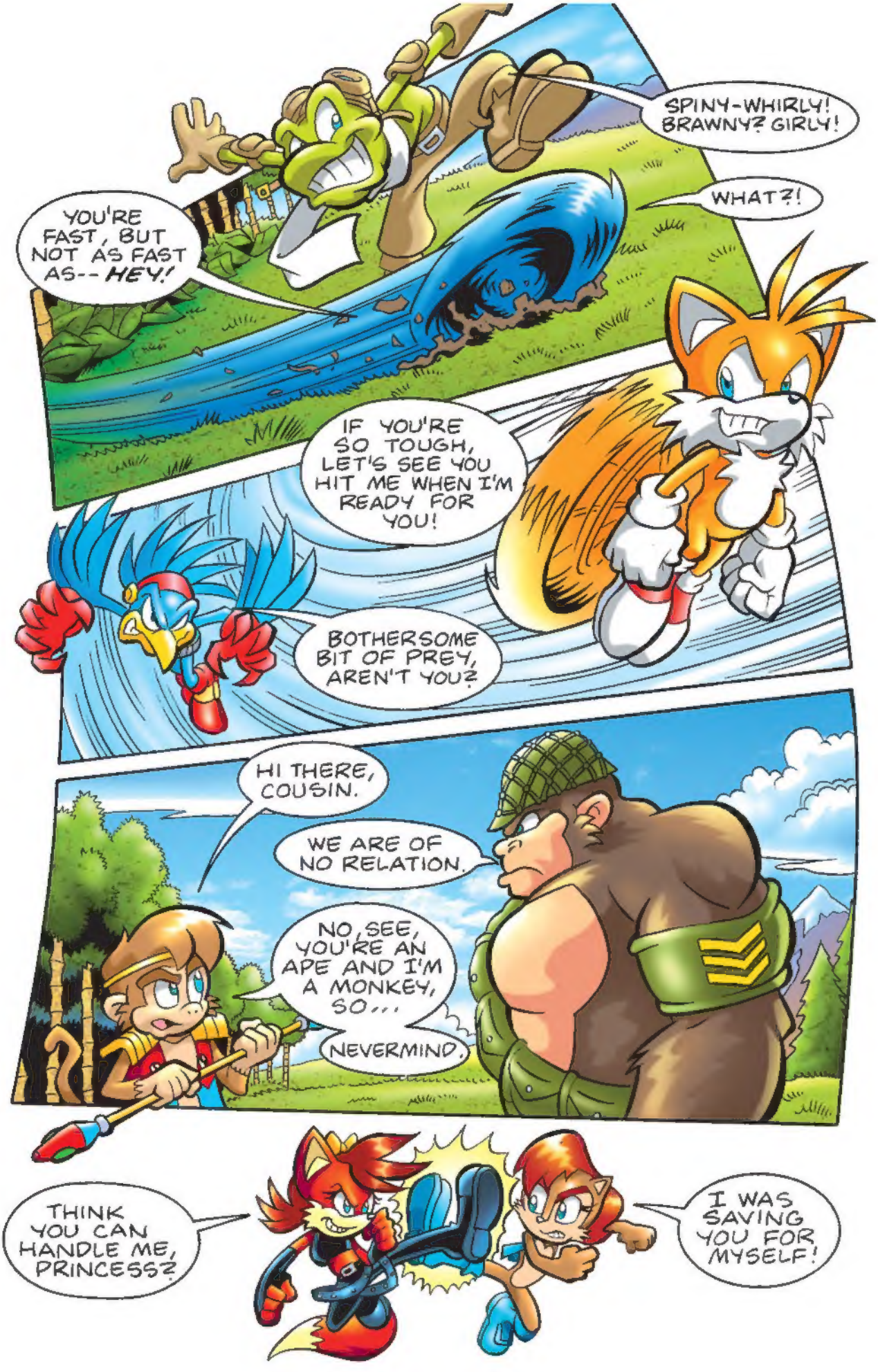
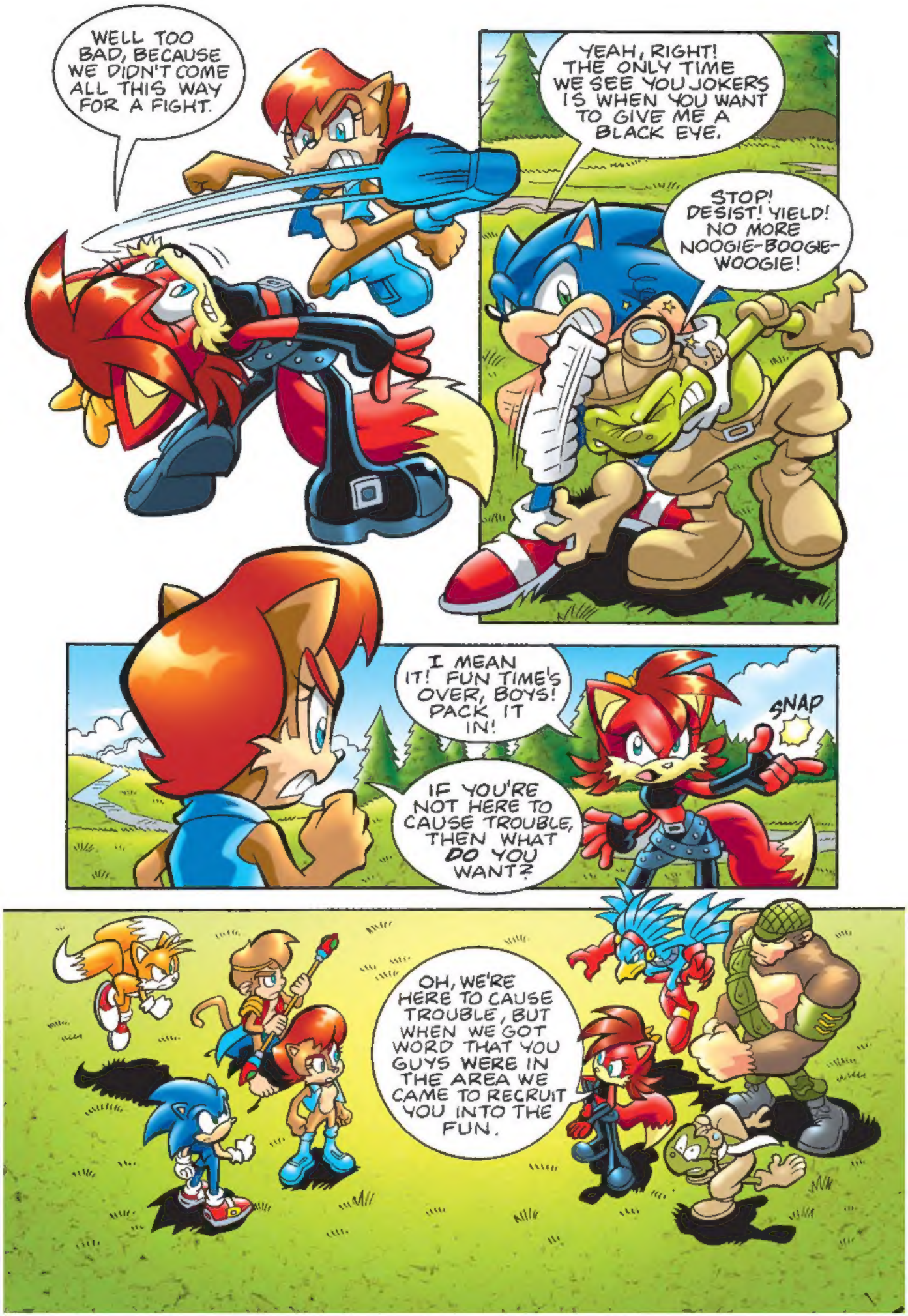
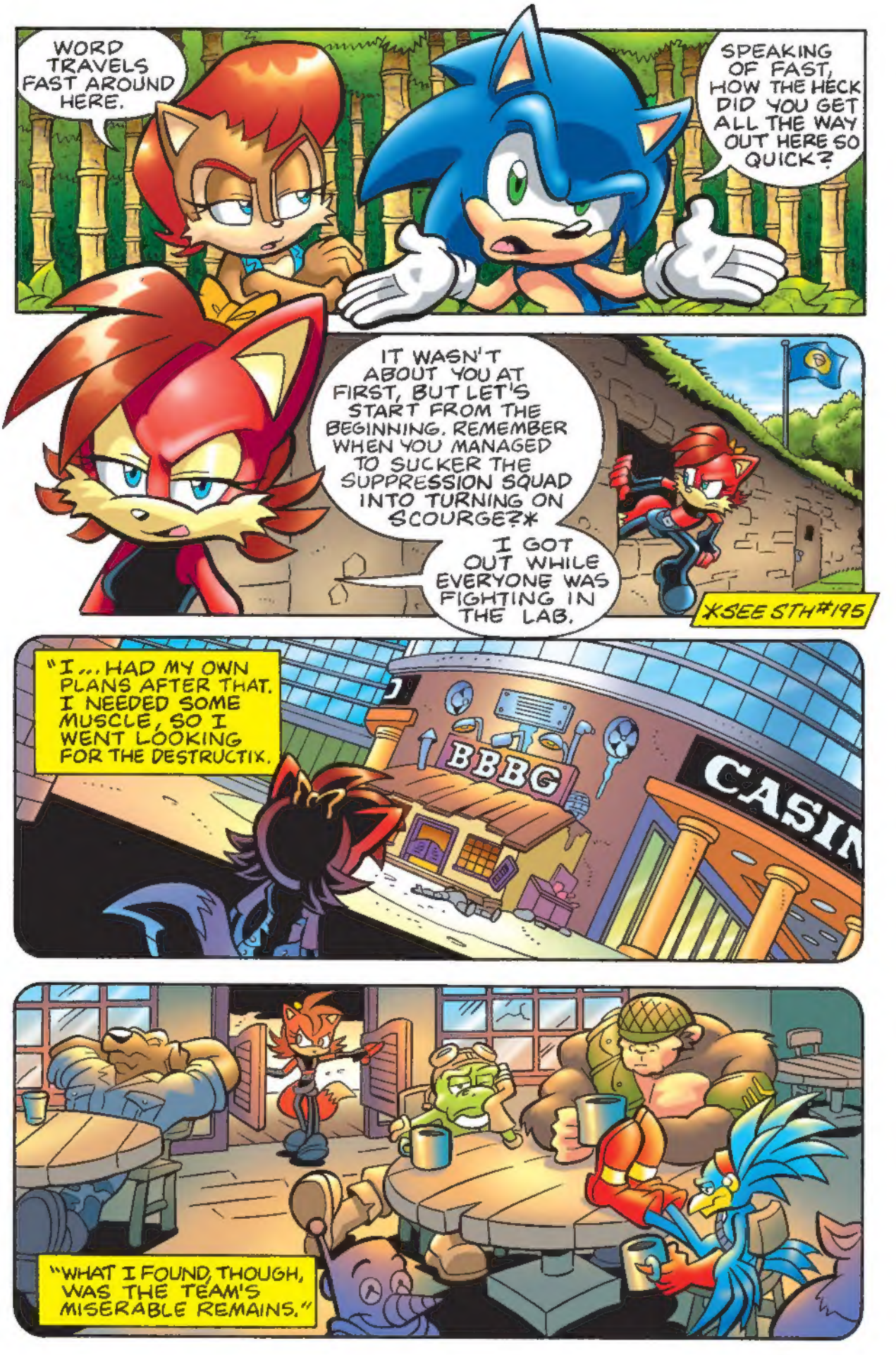
Welcome to the planet Mobius—a world beyond what you know from the SEGA games! Sonic and his friends have come to the Dragon Kingdom to weaken the Iron Dominion from within. What they didn't expect was to run into ...
Journey to the East
THE DESTRUCTIX!
NOW THAT WE HAVE YOUR ATTENTION, THERE'S SOMETHING WE WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS.
PREDATOR HAWK AERIAL MENACE
MILES "TAILS" PROWER SONIC'S BEST FRIEND
PRINCESS SALLY F.F. LEADER
FIONA FOX F.F. TRAITOR
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG HERO OF MOBIUS
MONKEY KHAN CYBORG SIMIAN
FLYING FROG NUTCASE
SGT. SIMIAN TACTICAL BRUISER
Part Three:
No Love in a
CONQUERING STORM
WRITER: IAN FLYNN PENCILS: TRACY YARDLEY INKS: JIM AMASH
COLORS: JASON JENSEN LETTERS: TERESA DAVIDSON
COVER: TRACY YARDLEY & BEN HUNZEKER ASSISTANT EDITOR: PAUL KAMINSKI
EDITOR/MANAGING EDITOR: MIKE PELLERITO EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: VICTOR GORELICK
SPECIAL THANKS TO CINDY CHAU & JERRY CHU AT SEGA LICENSING

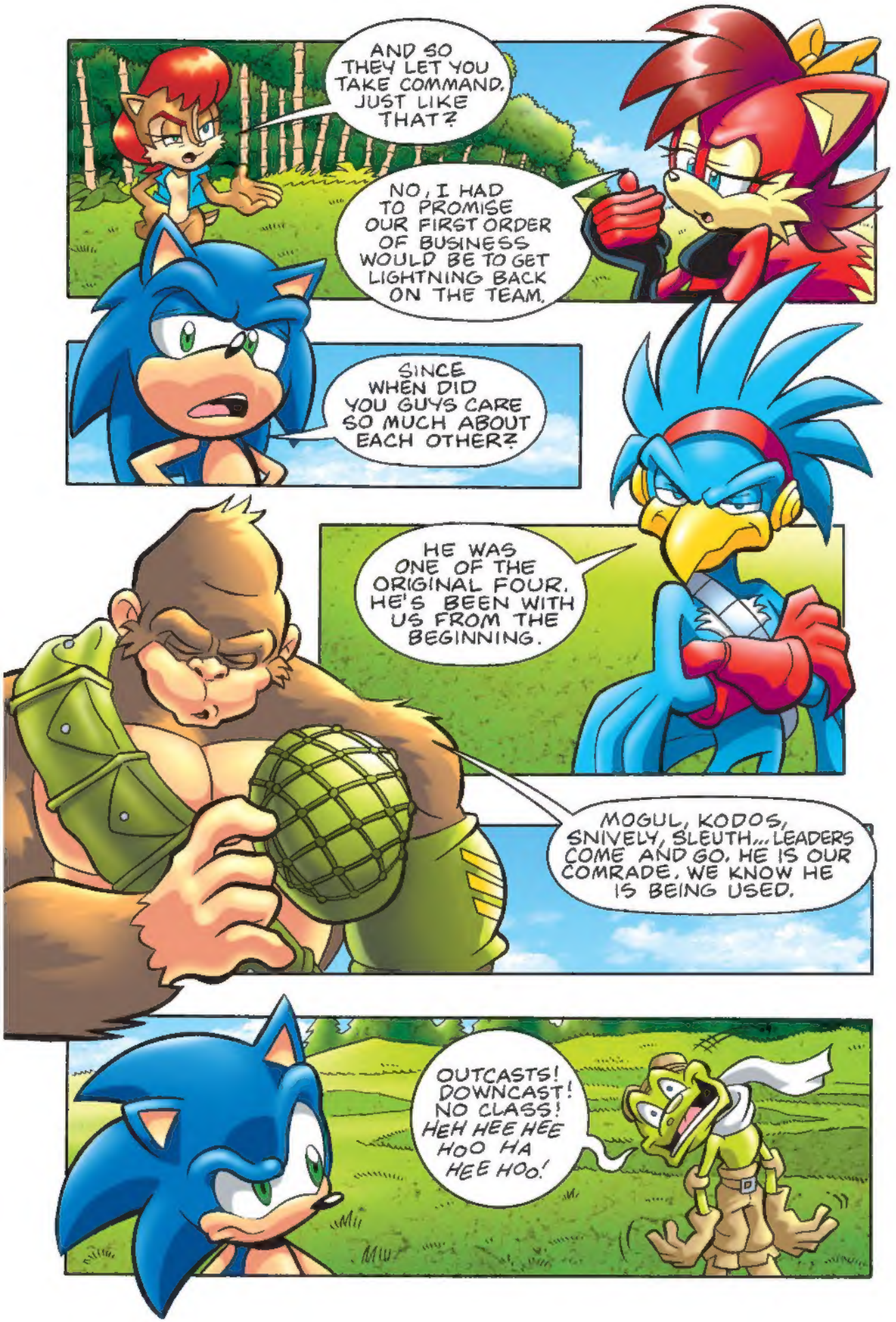
YOU'VE GOT MORE THAN MY ATTENTION! LET'S TAKE 'EM, TAILS!
YOU GOT IT!
FOLLOW THEIR LEAD, KEN! TAKE DOWN THE GORILLA!
O-OKAY?
WHAT?!
NOTHING! LET'S KICK SOME BUTT!
I JUST DON'T THINK I'VE EVER SEEN YOU THIS EAGER FOR A FIGHT...


SPINY-WHIRLY! BRAWNY? GIRLY!
WHAT?!
YOU'RE FAST, BUT NOT AS FAST AS-- HEY!
IF YOU'RE SO TOUGH, LET'S SEE YOU HIT ME WHEN I'M READY FOR YOU!
BOTHERSOME BIT OF PREY, AREN'T YOU?
HI THERE, COUSIN.
WE ARE OF NO RELATION.
NO, SEE, YOU'RE AN APE AND I'M A MONKEY, SO...
NEVERMIND.
THINK YOU CAN HANDLE ME, PRINCESS?
I WAS SAVING YOU FOR MYSELF!


WELL TOO BAD, BECAUSE WE DIDN'T COME ALL THIS WAY FOR A FIGHT.
YEAH, RIGHT! THE ONLY TIME WE SEE YOU JOKERS IS WHEN YOU WANT TO GIVE ME A BLACK EYE.
STOP! DESIST! YIELD! NO MORE NOOGIE-BOOGIE-WOOGIE!
I MEAN IT! FUN TIME'S OVER, BOYS! PACK IT IN!
SNAP
IF YOU'RE NOT HERE TO CAUSE TROUBLE, THEN WHAT DO YOU WANT?
OH, WE'RE HERE TO CAUSE TROUBLE, BUT WHEN WE GOT WORD THAT YOU GUYS WERE IN THE AREA WE CAME TO RECRUIT YOU INTO THE FUN.


WORD TRAVELS FAST AROUND HERE.
SPEAKING OF FAST, HOW THE HECK DID YOU GET ALL THE WAY OUT HERE SO QUICK?
IT WASN'T ABOUT YOU AT FIRST, BUT LET'S START FROM THE BEGINNING. REMEMBER WHEN YOU MANAGED TO SUCKER THE SUPPRESSION SQUAD INTO TURNING ON SCOURGE?*
I GOT OUT WHILE EVERYONE WAS FIGHTING IN THE LAB.
*SEE STH#195
"I... HAD MY OWN PLANS AFTER THAT. I NEEDED SOME MUSCLE, SO I WENT LOOKING FOR THE DESTRUCTIX.
BBBG
CASIN
"WHAT I FOUND, THOUGH, WAS THE TEAM'S MISERABLE REMAINS."

WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I WANT THE DESTRUCTIX.
YOU CAN HAVE THEM.
DRAGO WENT BACK TO THE EGGMAN EMPIRE, THE IDIOT. LIGHTNING LEFT SAYING SOMETHING ABOUT "HONOR RESTORED." SINCE HE LEFT, THE OTHERS HAVEN'T BEEN THE SAME.
YEAH, WELL, WORK IS WORK AND MONEY IS MONEY. HOW MUCH DO YOU WANT?
WHEN I SAID YOU COULD HAVE THEM, I MEANT IT. I'M DONE.
I'VE SAVED ENOUGH TO TAKE CARE OF MYSELF, AND I'VE SEEN ENOUGH TO KNOW NOW'S A GOOD TIME TO DISAPPEAR AND PRESERVE MY HIDE. GOOD LUCK, LADY.
YOU WON'T SEE ME AGAIN.


AND SO THEY LET YOU TAKE COMMAND, JUST LIKE THAT?
NO, I HAD TO PROMISE OUR FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS WOULD BE TO GET LIGHTNING BACK ON THE TEAM.
SINCE WHEN DID YOU GUYS CARE SO MUCH ABOUT EACH OTHER?
HE WAS ONE OF THE ORIGINAL FOUR. HE'S BEEN WITH US FROM THE BEGINNING.
MOGUL, KODOS, SNIVELY, SLEUTH... LEADERS COME AND GO. HE IS OUR COMRADE. WE KNOW HE IS BEING USED.
OUTCASTS! DOWNCAST! NO CLASS! HEH HEE HEE HOO HA HEE HOO!

WOW, I'M IMPRESSED. THAT'S A LOT OF LOYALTY BEING THROWN AROUND WHILE FIONA'S INVOLVED.
Hmph.
AW, CAN'T YOU TALK SOME SENSE INTO THEM, BIG MAN?
M-ME?
SURE. YOU KNOW ME BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE, RIGHT?
YOU SAID SO YOURSELF. YOU KNOW I'M GOOD ON THE INSIDE. IT WOULD MEAN SO MUCH TO ME IF YOU'D STEP IN AND--
--WOOF!

YOU'VE ALREADY TOYED WITH HIM *QUITE* ENOUGH. IF YOU WANT TO DEAL WITH US, THEN ***DEAL.***
WE WANT LIGHTNING RETURNED.
WE WANT HIS CLAN TO RENOUNCE THE IRON QUEEN.
THEN THE TERMS ARE AGREED UPON.
I'M GAME IF YOU GUYS ARE. I KNOW YOU'RE ENEMIES, BUT...
I'M FLEXIBLE, BUT HOW DO WE GET FUZZ-HEAD TO LEAVE THE PEOPLE HE *WANTS* TO BE WITH? NEVERMIND THE WHOLE ARMY OF NINJA LYNXES.
AND THIS IS WHY I'M IN CHARGE AND BROUGHT US ALL TOGETHER. I HAVE A PLAN.

"THE IRON FORTRESS-- THE FORMER HOME OF THE IRON KING AND QUEEN.
"IT HAS METER-THICK ARMORED WALLS, IT HAS TWO HEAVILY REINFORCED DOORWAYS THAT CAN ONLY BE OPENED FROM THE INSIDE."
BUT FROM THERE IT'S A STRAIGHT SHOT TO THE THRONE ROOM AND THE RAIJU CLAN'S BRIDE.
MAN, THIS PLACE IS UGLIER THAN I REMEMBERED.
THEN THE DOORS WILL JUST HAVE TO GO, WON'T THEY?
WELL, THEN-- SHALL WE INVITE OURSELVES IN?
REMEMBER THE PLAN...

"WE DO NOT HAVE THE TIME TO BREAK DOWN BOTH GATES, SO TEAM A WILL FLY TEAM B OVER THE OUTER WALLS. EXPECT HEAVY DEFENSIVE MEASURES.
"TEAM A WILL THEN MOVE TO ENGAGE THE INITIAL WAVE OF NINJA...
"...WHILE TEAM B DISENGAGES THE INNER GATE."
Heh-- JUST LIKE OLD TIMES WHEN I WAS A FREEDOM FIGHTER, huh, PRINCESS?
YOU MAY HAVE BEEN ON THE TEAM, BUT YOU WERE NEVER A FREEDOM FIGHTER.

"TEAM C WILL DEAL WITH THE OUTER GATE."
ON MY MARK!
READY!
VEEVEEVEEVEE
NOW!
WHA-BOOM
THAT WAS AWESOME!
I'M GLAD WE DON'T HAVE TO DO IT TWICE, THO'.

THE THRONE ROOM SHOULD BE STRAIGHT AHEAD!
SO THE KING OF THE FREE PEOPLE HAS RAISED HIMSELF A LITTLE ARMY. THAT'S FINE BY ME! ONLY FOOLS DECLARE ALL-OUT WAR ON THE RAIJU CLAN!
CONQUERING STORM BRIDE OF THE RAIJU CLAN.
WHICH IS WHY WE HAVEN'T COME FOR WAR! WE CAME TO TALK!

BY INVADING MY-- AHEM-- BY INVADING THE FORTRESS ENTRUSTED TO ME BY MY MASTERS?
WOULD YOU HAVE LISTENED TO US OTHERWISE?
NO. STATE YOUR CASE, AND DO IT QUICKLY.
BREAK AWAY FROM THE IRON DOMINION!
AS KING OF THE FREE PEOPLE, ON MY WORD OF HONOR, I PROMISE TO UPHOLD YOUR RIGHT TO YOUR LANDS. I'LL LET YOU KEEP THE IRON FORTRESS TOO.
YOU'LL "LET US" KEEP IT? BOLD WORDS.
BUT WE CANNOT BE BOUGHT LIKE THE LOWLY YAGYU.
WE ARE THE MIGHTY RAIJU! ONLY THROUGH ONE'S STRENGTH -- THROUGH ACTION -- DO YOU EARN ANYTHING!
THEN I PROPOSE A WAGER UPON A DUEL OF HONOR.

SHOULD YOUR CHAMPION WIN, WE WILL SURRENDER TO YOU. WE'D BE PRIME PRISONERS FOR THE IRON QUEEN
AND IF OURS IS VICTORIOUS, YOU RENOUNCE THE IRON DOMINION.
Either way, I win.
AGREED. LIGHTNING! YOU WILL FIGHT TO PROVE YOUR CONTINUED WORTH TO YOUR CLAN.
Y-YES! OF COURSE! THANK YOU!
THE KING OF THE FREE PEOPLE HUMBLY ASKS THE HERO OF MOBIUS TO DUEL ON BEHALF OF HIS PEOPLE.
THE HERO OF MOBIUS HAPPILY ACCEPTS, BUT THINKS ALL THIS HONORIFIC HOITY-TOITY IS SILLY!
Y-YOU?. NOT THE MONKEY...?
SORRY, FUZZ-HEAD. I'M THE HERO OF THIS ADVENTURE.

NO!
I'VE COME TOO FAR TO HAVE YOU RUIN THINGS NOW!
SHE TOOK ME BACK! AFTER ALL THESE YEARS I'M HOME AGAIN! I WON'T LET YOU TAKE THAT AWAY FROM ME!
≥KOFF≤ OKAY, I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU HAD SO MUCH INVESTED IN THIS. BUT I'VE GOT A WHOLE CITY TO RESCUE.
MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY HAVE TO COME FIRST. ...I'M SORRY.

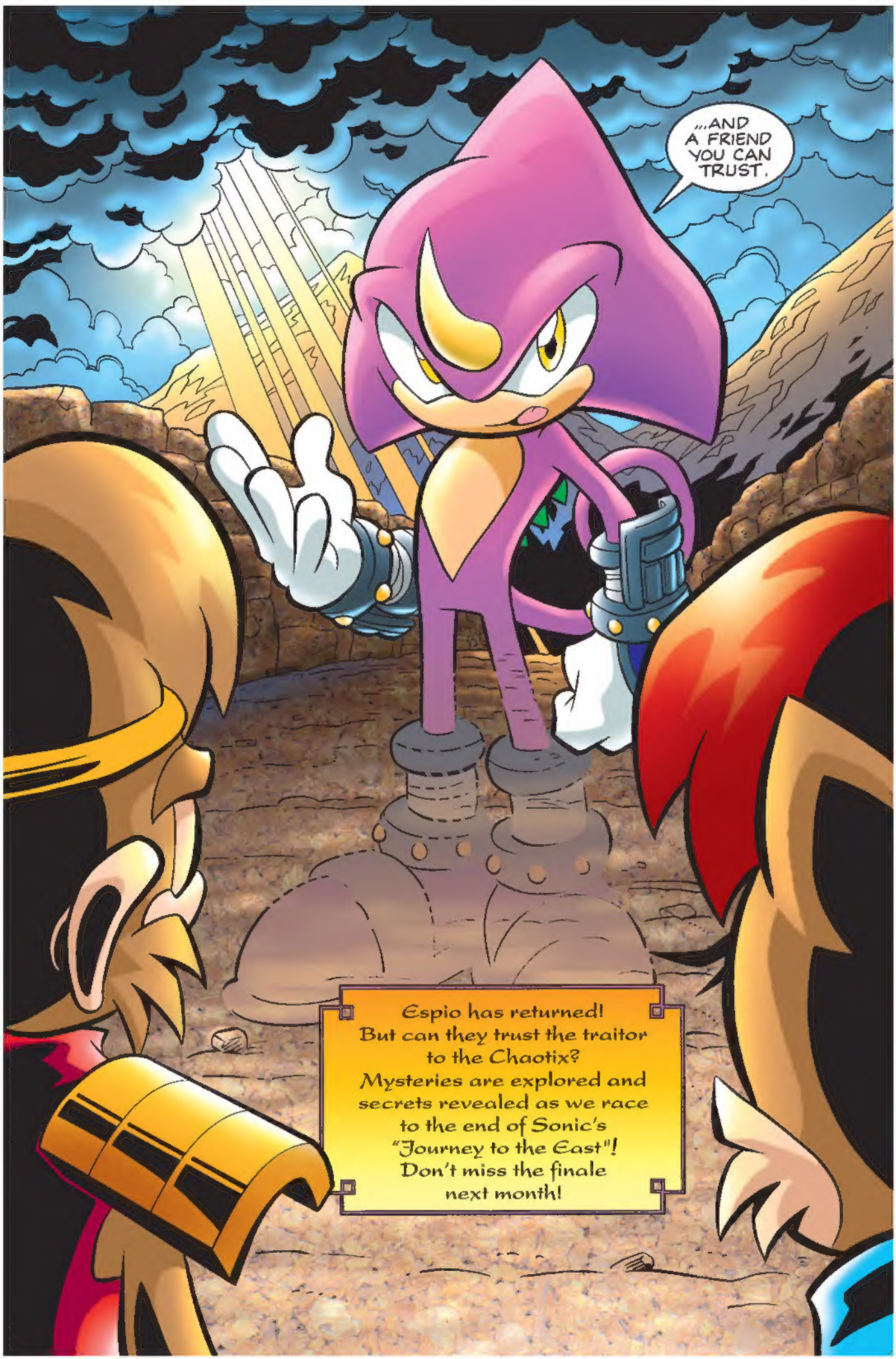
THAT WAS PATHETIC. LIGHTNING IS HENCEFORTH RAIJU NO MORE.
AGAIN.
NO! WAIT! I CAN STILL BE OF USE TO YOU!
NO, YOU CAN'T.
DON'T! PLEASE! I LOVE--
DO NOT EMBARRASS YOURSELF FURTHER. THAT'S WHAT GOT YOU BANISHED THE FIRST TIME.

THIS ISN'T WHAT WE AGREED TO.
YES, IT WAS. YOU JUST DIDN'T KNOW IT.
YOU WERE NEVER ONE OF THEM. YOU ARE ONE OF US.
THEY WOULD HAVE REJECTED YOU EVENTUALLY. WE WILL NOT.
ONE FOR ALL! ALL FOR ONE! SOME FOR SOME, AND FREE-FOR-ALL!
HEY. YOU'RE RUNNING WITH US NOW. AND I PROMISE YOU, WITH WHAT I'VE GOT PLANNED...
...THEY'LL GET WHAT'S COMING TO THEM.
ALL OF THEM?
ALL OF THEM.
...GOOD. LET'S GO.

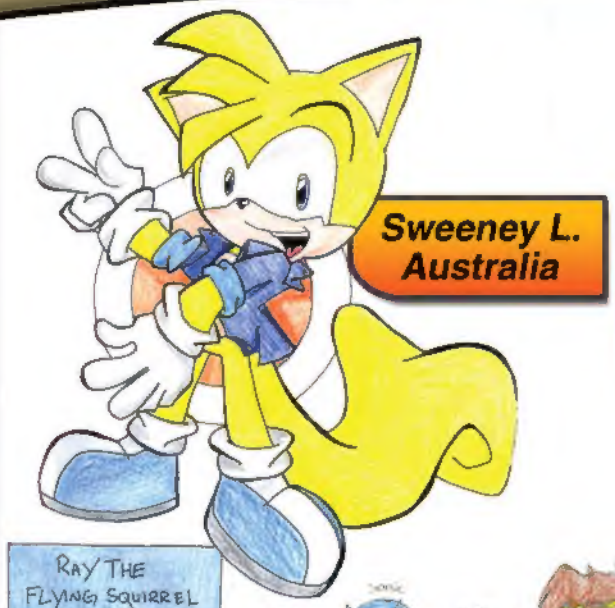
THE RAIJU HAVE LOST, AND BY MY WORD OF HONOR I RENOUNCE OUR TIES TO THE IRON DOMINION. BUT THAT DOES NOT MAKE US ALLIES.
LEAVE.
DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME TWICE...
HONORED MATRON.
SPEAK.
WHAT WILL WE DO IF THE IRON DOMINION LEARNS OF THIS AND RETALIATES?
THEY WON'T.
THE CLAN OF THE FOUR HOUSES IS ON THE VERGE OF COLLAPSE. ALL THEY'LL HAVE ARE THEIR LEGIONNAIRES, THE HEROES OF THE WEST WILL TAKE CARE OF THE IRON DOMINION FOR US...
"...AND THEN THE DRAGON KINGDOM WILL BE OURS."
IT LOOKS LIKE FIONA AND THE DESTRUCTIX DIDN'T STICK AROUND TO SAY GOOD-BYE.
NO? SUCH A PITY. REALLY.

Um... THANK YOU, SALLY. ABOUT EARLIER.
ABOUT WHAT?
ABOUT... ABOUT STOPPING FIONA. WHEN SHE WAS TEASING ME... OR WHATEVER THAT WAS.
OH! THAT! YOU'RE WELCOME!
ACTUALLY, I WAS WORRIED I MIGHT BE OVER-STEPPING MY BOUNDS. YOU'RE GETTING TO BE YOUR OWN MAN, AND I SHOULD'VE AT LEAST CONSULTED YOU ON SUCH A PERSONAL MATTER. BUT SHE'S DONE SO MUCH TO HURT YOU, I JUST...!
NO, IT'S OKAY. I UNDERSTAND.
THOUGH... I FELT A BIT BRUTISH AFTER THAT. IT'S ONE THING TO BE PROACTIVE, BUT I'M NOT A THUG.
ACTUALLY, I THOUGHT IT WAS KIND OF HOT.
TOTALLY IN AGREEMENT THERE!
YEAH! NEXT TIME YOU SHOULD SLUG HER AGAIN!
I'm drowning in testosterone...

SERIOUSLY, THOUGH. WE'RE THREE-FOR-THREE WITH THE NINJA CLANS. WHO'S NEXT?
COOL! WHERE ARE THEY?
THE SHINOBI CLAN.
I HAVE NO IDEA.
LAME, MONKEY-BOY.
I'M SERIOUS! THEY'RE KNOWN FOR THEIR SECRECY. ALL I KNOW IS THAT THEY'RE CHAMELEONS. EVERYTHING ELSE IS RUMORS AND LEGENDS.
MAYBE IF WE COULD GET TO ANGEL ISLAND AND BORROW KNUCKLES. HE KNOWS HOW TO SPOT THEM.
NO, HE'S BUSY SAFE-GUARDING ANGEL ISLAND. BESIDES, WE CAN'T HAVE HIM EXAMINE EVERY INCH OF THE DRAGON KINGDOM.
HOW DO YOU FIND INVISIBLE PEOPLE WHO DON'T WANT TO BE FOUND?
YOU'LL NEED A GUIDE...


...AND A FRIEND YOU CAN TRUST.
Espio has returned! But can they trust the traitor to the Chaotix? Mysteries are explored and secrets revealed as we race to the end of Sonic's "Journey to the East"! Don't miss the finale next month!

MY SONIC UNIVERSE™ FAN ART



Sweeney L.
Australia

RAY THE FLYING SQUIRREL

Paulina G.
Alabama

FAN FUNNIES!

LOOK, SHADOW! DR. EGGMAN BUILT A BOMB!!!
BOMB
I HAVE TO FIND THE 7 CHAOS EMERALDS TO STOP IT FROM EXPLODING!
AND HEY, I CAN GET ALL MY FRIENDS TO HELP ME ALONG THE WAY! YEAH!
SONIC.
SONIC!
WHY DON'T YOU JUST UNPLUG IT?
THANKS A LOT SHADOW! THERE GOES MY NEXT GAME!
THE END

by Alexander M. from Puerto Rico

HEY, KIDS!

LOVE "OFF PANEL"?
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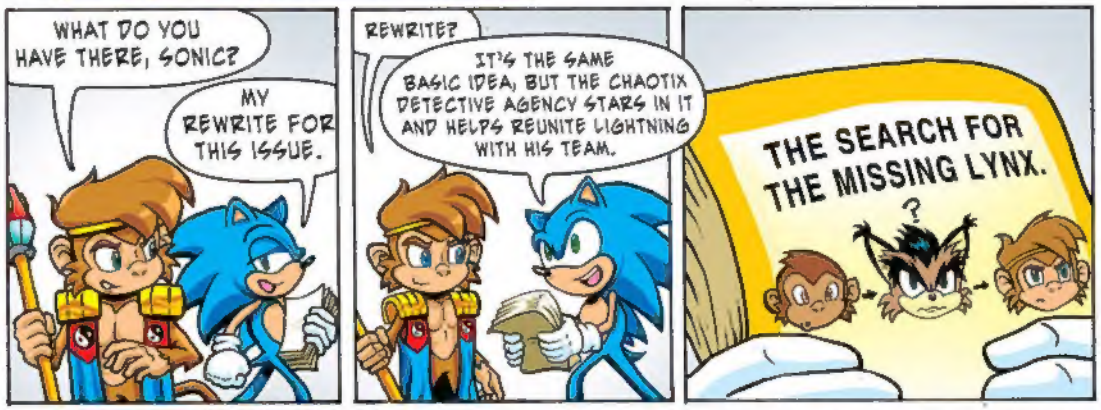
OFF PANEL Journey to the East


WHAT DO YOU HAVE THERE, SONIC?
MY REWRITE FOR THIS ISSUE.
REWRITE?
IT'S THE SAME BASIC IDEA, BUT THE CHAOTIX DETECTIVE AGENCY STARS IN IT AND HELPS REUNITE LIGHTNING WITH HIS TEAM.
THE SEARCH FOR THE MISSING LYNX.
?

SCRIPT: IAN FLYNN PENCILS: JAMAL PEPPERS INKS/COLORS: PAUL KAMINSKI

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